

Appl. No.: 10/660,004
Amdt. dated 04/18/2006
Reply to Official Action of December 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Reply is filed in response to the first Official Action for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of the above-identified patent application. The present application includes pending Claims 1-25, of which the first Official Action now rejects Claims 1-16 and 18-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,510,381 to Grounds et al. The first Official Action then rejects the remaining claim, namely Claim 17, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Grounds in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,345,388 to Kashiwazaki. As explained below, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentably distinct from Grounds and Kashiwazaki, taken individually or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the claims as being anticipated by Grounds, or as being unpatentable over Grounds in view of Kashiwazaki. In view of the remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims of the present application.

A. Claims 1-16 and 18-25 are Patentable over Grounds

As indicated above, the first Official Action rejects Claims 1-16 and 18-25 as being anticipated by Grounds. Briefly, Grounds discloses a vehicle-mounted device and method for transmitting vehicle position data to a network-based server. As disclosed, the device includes a first module for receiving and processing positioning signals into vehicle position data. The device also includes a second module for communicating the signals to a network-based server using a wireless communications system. In this regard, the device can further include memory for storing the signals on-board the device during periods that the device is out of range of the wireless communication system for later transmission to the network-based server.

According to one claimed aspect of the present invention, as recited by independent Claim 1 and similarly by independent Claims 7, 13 and 19, a method of obtaining a terminal location includes defining at least one connection of the terminal. The terminal is monitored for establishment of a defined connection where the defined connection is established by the terminal. The terminal is also monitored for termination of the defined connection after the defined connection is established. Termination of the defined connection, then, triggers

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obtaining a location of the terminal. As further recited, the monitoring steps are performed at the terminal such that termination of the determined connection triggers the terminal to obtain its location.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Grounds does not teach or suggest termination of a defined connection triggering a terminal to obtain its location. Grounds does disclose a device communicating the location of a vehicle to a remote networked-based server or a local memory depending on whether the device has established communication with a wireless communication system including the server. Nowhere, however, does Grounds teach or suggest that termination of the device's connection with the wireless communication system, or connection with any other device, triggers the device to obtain its location (or the location of its associated vehicle). Rather, Grounds discloses that the device obtains the vehicle's location irrespective of the device's connection with the wireless communication system. The connection merely determines the destination of the already obtained location. The claimed invention, on the other hand, recites that termination of a terminal's connection triggers the terminal to obtain its location.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent Claim 1, and by dependency Claims 2-6 and 25, is patentably distinct from Grounds. Applicants also respectfully submit that independent Claims 7, 13 and 19 include the aforementioned feature of termination of a defined connection triggering a terminal to obtain its location. Accordingly, Applicants also respectfully submit that independent Claims 7, 13 and 19, and by dependency Claims 8-12, 14-18 and 20-24, are also patentably distinct from Grounds for at least the same reasons given above with respect to independent Claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1-16 and 18-25 as being anticipated by Grounds is overcome.

B. Claim 17 is Patentable over Grounds in view of Kashiwazaki

As explained above, Grounds does not teach or suggest termination of a defined connection triggering a terminal to obtain its location, as recited by independent Claim 1 and similarly by independent Claim 13, and by dependency Claim 17. Similarly, Applicants

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respectfully submit that Kashiwazaki does not teach or suggest the aforementioned termination triggering feature of the claimed invention. Thus, as neither Grounds nor Kashiwazaki teach or suggest the termination triggering feature of the claimed invention, the combination of Grounds and Kashiwazaki likewise does not teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1, and similarly dependent Claim 13, and by dependency Claim 17, is patentably distinct from Grounds and Kashiwazaki, taken individually or in combination.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 17 as being unpatentable over Grounds in view of Kashiwazaki is overcome.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

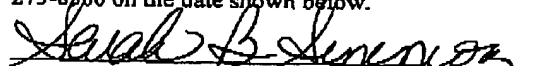


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.


Sarah B. Simmons

April 18, 2006
Date